

REMARKS

Applicants affirm the election made on February 15, 2005.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11-15, 26, 31, 35, 36, 38-42 and 59 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. More specifically, in Claims 1 and 26, the term "polyfunctional monomer" is said to be indefinite as to scope and meaning. The Office Action indicates that it is allegedly unclear as to whether the language refers to a monomer having more than one type of functional group or a monomer having plural functional groups of the same type. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described in paragraph [0010] of the specification, "polyfunctional" is defined as referring to monomers having two or more functional groups. "The monomers used will typically have only one type of functionality; the monomers may contain one or more additional functionalities, provided this additional functionality does not interfere with the formation of the highly branched polymer." It is respectfully submitted that this disclosure clearly conveys to one skilled in the art what is meant by "polyfunctional monomer". More specifically, it would be clear that this term refers to a monomer having two or more functional groups; the two or more functional groups can be the same or different.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is noted with appreciation that Claims 5 and 32 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. It is believed that the comments made above render rewriting of these claims unnecessary to put them in condition for allowance.

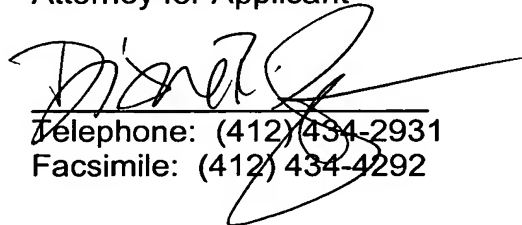
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SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that the comments made above address the rejections made in the Office Action, and as such, put the case in condition for a Notice of Allowance. Such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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